GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1079
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
DEPOTS OF FCI
Bhagora Shri Mahavir;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of depots being operated by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the country particularly Andhra Pradesh, State-wise;

(b) the number of depots closed down during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the review of such depots was done before their closure;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to revive the closed depots;

(f) if so, the time by which the said depots are likely to be revived;

(g) whether the present storage capacity of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in various States particularly Andhra Pradesh is adequate; and

(h) if not, the steps taken for creation of more storage space?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The total number of depots being operated by Food Corporation of India in the country is 1450 (Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP) as on 30.06.2007. Out of this, 133 depots are being operated in Andhra Pradesh. State-wise break-up of depots is enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b): No FCI Owned depot has been closed during the last three years. However, FCI has been dehiring the hired godowns which are considered surplus and uneconomical.

(c): Yes, Sir. Hiring and dehiring of godowns by the FCI is a continuous process. A review in this regard is done every month and those godowns which are found surplus and uneconomical are dehired and if the storage capacity is found inadequate at any place, then additional capacity is hired from CWC/SWC/State Government/ the private parties, with the approval of the CMD of FCI.

(d): As an outcome of periodic reviews, FCI had dehired/hired the godowns wherever required. A detailed statement of dehiring/hiring of the godowns state-wise during the last three years is enclosed as Annex-II.

(e)&(f): As stated above, hiring and dehiring of godowns by the FCI is a continuous process, FCI will have no reservations in rehiring the dehired godowns if the need for having such godowns arises again.

(g)&(h): Yes, Sir. The overall storage capacity available with the FCI at present is quite adequate at macro level. Against capacity of 247.54 lakh tones held by FCI, 93.22 lakh tones capacity is lying vacant as on 30.6.07. As on 30.06.2007, Andhra Pradesh has total capacity of 33.68 lakh tonnes out of which 7.46 lakh tonnes capacity is lying vacant. State-wise vacant space position is at Annex-III. In order to overcome the gap in storage capacity at micro level, following steps have been taken:

i) A proposal has been taken up with the Planning Commission for sanctioning of an amount of Rs.170 crores for construction of storage godowns during the XIth Five Year Plan. FCI has proposed to construct 4.04 lakh tonnes capacity during the XIth Five Year Plan in various States.

ii) Under the National Policy Of Bulk Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains, a capacity of 5.5 lakh MTs is being created both in Procuring and Deficit States on Build, Own & Operate (BOO) basis.

iii) In addition, full powers have been vested with the General Managers (Region)/ Executive Directors (Zone) to hire additional capacity from CWC/SWC /State Govt. at the micro level for meeting the emergent requirement. However, approval of the CMD, FCI is required for hiring godowns of Private Parties.